

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A recombinant *Streptococcus suis* mutant ~~having a modified capsular gene cluster~~ deficient in capsular expression, wherein a mutation causing the deficiency in capsular expression is stable.

16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A vaccine comprising ~~the recombinant a~~ *Streptococcus suis* mutant ~~of claim 15~~ deficient in capsular expression, wherein a mutation causing the deficiency in capsular expression is stable.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) The vaccine of ~~claim 19~~ claim 18, wherein said ~~Streptococcus~~ *Streptococcus suis* mutant deficient in capsular expression is capable of surviving in an immune-competent host.

22. (Currently amended) The vaccine of claim 21, wherein said ~~Streptococcus~~ *Streptococcus suis* mutant deficient in capsular expression is capable of surviving at least 4-5 days in said immune-competent host.

23. (Currently amended) The vaccine of ~~claim 19~~ claim 18, wherein said ~~Streptococcus~~ *Streptococcus suis* mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *Streptococcus* virulence factor or antigenic determinant.

24. (Currently amended) The vaccine of ~~claim 19~~ claim 18, wherein said ~~Streptococcus~~ *Streptococcus suis* mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a non-*Streptococcus* protein.

25. (Original) The vaccine of claim 24 wherein said non-*Streptococcus* protein has been derived from a pathogen.

26-31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) The vaccine of ~~claim 20~~ claim 21, wherein said ~~recombinant Streptococcus~~ *Streptococcus suis* mutant has been produced by homologous recombination.

33. (Currently amended) The vaccine of claim 21, wherein said *Streptococcus suis* mutant is capable of surviving ~~at least~~ at least 8-10 days in said host.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently amended) The vaccine of ~~claim 20~~ claim 21, wherein said ~~Streptococcus~~ *Streptococcus suis* mutant deficient in capsular expression is capable of surviving in an immune-competent host.

36. (Currently amended) The vaccine of claim 35, wherein said ~~Streptococcus~~ *Streptococcus suis* mutant deficient in capsular expression survives at least 4-5 days in an immune-competent host.

37. (Currently amended) The vaccine of ~~claim 20~~ claim 21, wherein said ~~Streptococcus~~ *Streptococcus suis* mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *Streptococcus* virulence factor or antigenic determinant.

38. (Currently amended) The vaccine of claim 22, wherein said ~~Streptococcus~~ *Streptococcus suis* mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *Streptococcus* virulence factor or antigenic determinant.

39. (Currently amended) The vaccine of claim 35, wherein said ~~Streptococcus~~ Streptococcus suis mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *Streptococcus* virulence factor or antigenic determinant.

40. (Currently amended) The vaccine of claim 36, wherein said ~~Streptococcus~~ Streptococcus suis mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a *Streptococcus* virulence factor or antigenic determinant.

41-49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently amended) The vaccine of claim 38, wherein said ~~Streptococcus~~ Streptococcus suis mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a non-*Streptococcus* protein.

51. (Currently amended) The vaccine of claim 39, wherein said ~~Streptococcus~~ Streptococcus suis mutant deficient in capsular expression expresses a non-*Streptococcus* protein.

52. (New) A vaccine comprising a *Streptococcus suis* cell deficient in capsular expression, wherein the *Streptococcus suis* cell comprises a stable mutation in a capsular gene cluster.

53. (New) The vaccine of claim 52, wherein the stable mutation comprises a knock-out in the capsular gene cluster.

54. (New) The vaccine of claim 52, wherein the mutation comprises a mutated cpsB gene, a mutated cpsEF gene, or a combination thereof.

55. (New) The vaccine of claim 52, wherein the *Streptococcus suis* cell expresses a non-*Streptococcal* protein.

56. (New) A composition comprising the recombinant *Streptococcus suis* mutant of claim 15.

57. (New) The recombinant *Streptococcus suis* mutant of claim 15, wherein the *Streptococcus suis* mutant expresses a non-*Streptococcus* protein.